

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2012 REPORT

USA COMMENTS - recommended changes shown in
blue font

CHAPTER 6.7.

HARMONISATION OF
NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING PROGRAMMES

Article 6.7.3.

The development of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes

1. General aspects

Surveillance of antimicrobial resistance at targeted intervals or ongoing monitoring of the prevalence of resistance in bacteria from *animals*, food, environment and humans, constitutes a critical part of animal health and food safety strategies aimed at limiting the spread of antimicrobial resistance and optimising the choice of *antimicrobial agents* used in therapy.

Monitoring of bacteria from products of animal origin intended for human consumption collected at different steps of the food chain, including processing, packing and retailing, should also be considered.

National antimicrobial resistance monitoring and surveillance programmes should be scientifically based and may include the following components:

- a) statistically based surveys;
- b) sampling and testing of food producing animals on the farm, at live animal market or at *slaughter*;
- c) an organised sentinel programme, for example targeted sampling of food producing animals, *herds*, *flocks*, and *vectors* (e.g. birds, rodents);
- d) analysis of veterinary practice and diagnostic *laboratory records*;
- e) sampling and testing of food products of animal origin.

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b) Zoonotic bacteria

i) *Salmonella*

Salmonella should be sampled from animal feed, food producing animals and animal derived food products. For the purpose of consistency and harmonisation, samples should be preferably taken at the *abattoir*.

Surveillance and monitoring programmes may also include bacterial isolates obtained from designated national *laboratories* originating from other sources.

Isolation and identification of bacteria and bacterial strains should follow nationally or internationally standardised procedures.

Serovars of public health importance such as *S. Typhimurium* and *S. Enteritidis* should be included. The inclusion of other relevant serovars will depend on the epidemiological situation in each country.

All *Salmonella* isolates should be serotyped and, where appropriate, phage-typed according to standard methods used at the nationally designated *laboratories*. For those countries that have the capabilities, *Salmonella* could be genotyped using genetic finger-printing methods.

Rationale: Italicize the scientific name of the organisms for appropriateness and consistency within the chapter.

ii) *Campylobacter*

Campylobacter jejuni and *C. coli* should be isolated from food producing animals and associated food products (primarily from *poultry*). Isolation and identification of these bacteria should follow nationally or internationally standardised procedures. *Campylobacter* isolates should be identified to the species level.

iii) Other emerging bacterial pathogens

Other emerging bacterial pathogens such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Listeria monocytogenes* or others which are pathogenic to humans, may be included in resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes.

Rationale: Suggest that the words methicillin resistant be hyphenated for grammatical accuracy.

c) Commensal bacteria

E. coli and *enterococci* (*Enterococcus faecium* and *E. faecalis*) may be sampled from animal feed, food producing animals and animal-derived food products.

These bacteria are commonly used in surveillance and monitoring programmes as indicators, providing information on the potential reservoir of antimicrobial resistance genes, which may be transferred to pathogenic bacteria. It is considered that these bacteria should be isolated from healthy *animals*, preferably at the *abattoir*, and be monitored for antimicrobial resistance.